Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph **[0061]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0061] Returning to Fig. 4, the tag generator 430 may obtain an entry from the action memory 420 and, based on the obtained entry, assemble an action tag for transmission to the PVQ 235. The action tag informs the PVQ 235 of the manner in which the corresponding data frame is to be processed within the switch 180. The tag generator 430 may also transmit a frame pointer that identifies the data frame within the external memory 170 to the PVQ 235.

Please replace paragraph **[0062]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0062] Returning to Fig. 3, the output control queues 240 may include priority queues 340 350 associated with different priority levels. Each of the priority queues 340 350 may store a forwarding descriptor related to a data frame with the corresponding priority level. Fig. 3 shows priority queues 340 350 associated with high and low priority levels. In other implementations consistent with the present invention, the number of priority levels and associated priority queues 340 350 may differ. For example, the priority levels may correspond to high, medium, and low priority levels or high, medium-high, medium-low, and low priority levels.

Please replace paragraph **[0063]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0063] The registers 250 may include one or more registers programmed with priority levels that correspond to the priority queues 340 350. The host 160 may program the priority levels into the registers 250 via the host interface 260. The action tag generated by the action generator 340 may be used as an index into the registers 250. The PVQ 235 may use the priority levels

from the registers 250 to identify the appropriate priority queue ~~340~~ 350 within the output control queues 240 to store the frame descriptors corresponding to data frames received by the switch 180.

Please replace paragraph **[0071]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0071] Based on the priority level assigned to the data frame, the PVQ 235 may identify the priority queue of the priority queues ~~340~~ 350 in the output control queues 240 to store the forwarding descriptor relating to the data frame [act 770]. The PVQ 235 may identify a priority queue ~~340~~ 350 according to the output port from which the data frame is to be transmitted and the priority level assigned to the data frame. The PVQ 235 may identify the appropriate output port from the forwarding descriptor. As described above, the PVQ 235 may obtain the forwarding descriptor from the IRC 245. The PVQ 235 may store the forwarding descriptor in the identified priority queue ~~340~~ 350 to await transmission by the transmitter 210 [act 780].